

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy extended during a telephone conference discussing this patent application.

The status identifier for claims 22-28 has been corrected,

Claims 2, 10-12, 14-16, 21 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 2, 10-12, 14-16, 21 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 29-33 have been amended to recite:

the first circuit comprises (i) a processing circuit which uses output of one of the first unit circuits, (ii) a second unit circuit for a second shift register of a system different a system from the first shift register, and (iii) a processing circuit which uses output of the second unit circuit of the second shift register.

Based on the above-mentioned discussion with Examiner Nguyen, Applicant believes this amendment overcomes the Section 112, first and second paragraph, rejections. Applicant notes that Figure 14 shows by way of example and without limitation a circuit which provides support for the claimed first circuit.

Consequently, the claimed subject matter is fully and completely supported by the original disclosure.

Claims 2, 10, 14-16, 21 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as allegedly being “anticipated” by, or, in the alternative, as being “obvious” over, Kihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,504).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Each of independent claims 29-33 recites that a first circuit is disposed in the physical space between a first unit circuit of a preceding output stage and a first unit circuit of a following output stage. The first circuit comprises (i) a processing circuit which uses output of one of the first unit circuits, (ii) a second unit circuit for a second shift register of a system different a system from the first shift register, and (iii) a processing circuit which uses output of the second unit circuit of the second shift register. No such arrangement is shown or suggested in Kihara et al. In particular, Kihara et al. is at least deficient with respect to showing, or fairly suggesting, the processing circuits (i) and (iii). Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that Kihara et al. does not anticipate, or make obvious, claims 29-33 or the claims that depend therefrom.

Claims 2, 10, 14-16, 21 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as allegedly being “anticipated” by, or, in the alternative, as being “obvious” over, Azami (U.S. Patent No. 6,702,407). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being “obvious” over Azami.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Even under the view of Azami as set forth in the office action, Azami is at least deficient with respect to features of the first circuit, e.g., processing circuit (iii), of claims 29-33. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that Azami does not anticipate, or make obvious, claims 29-33 or the claims that depend therefrom.

Moreover, even assuming the image data in Azami is modified to be analog image data, Azami is still defective with respect to claim 31 (from which claim 11 depends) as discussed above. Consequently, claim 11 patentably distinguishes over Azami.

Claims 2, 10, 14-16, 21 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as allegedly being “anticipated” by, or, in the alternative, as being obvious over, Washio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,724,361).<sup>1</sup>

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Even under the view of Washio et al. as set forth in the office action, Washio et al. is at least deficient with respect to features of the first circuit, e.g., processing circuit (iii), of claims 29-33. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that Washio et al. does not anticipate, or make obvious, claims 29-33 or the claims that depend therefrom.

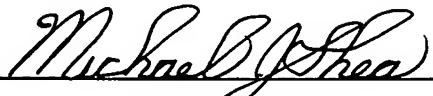
Favorable office action is respectfully requested.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant does not concede the propriety of an obviousness rejection based on the commonly assigned Washio et al. U.S. patent, which qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e). In any event, Applicant notes the earlier publication of certain counterparts to the Washio et al. U.S. patent (e.g., the May 2, 2001 publication of EP 1 096 467).

MAEDA et al.  
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Respectfully submitted,  
**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:   
Michael J. Shea  
Reg. No. 34,725

MJS:mjs  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100